

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 15 as follows:

In one embodiment, the elastomer is a block copolymer of at least one conjugated diene and at least one monoalkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon. The preferred conjugated dienes are butadiene, isoprene, chloroprene, carboxylated butadiene, and carboxylated isoprene. Most preferably, the conjugated diene is butadiene or isoprene. The preferred monoalkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon is styrene. Such block copolymers can have a general formula A-B-A or (A-B)_nX wherein each A block is a monoalkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon polymer block, each B block is a conjugated diolefin polymer block, X is a coupling agent and n is an integer from 2 to about 30. Such block copolymers can be linear or may have a radial or star configuration as well as being tapered. Block copolymers such as these are well known and are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,145,298; 4,238,202; and 5,039,755; all of which are incorporated by reference. The block copolymers can have a number average molecular weight from about 30,000 to about 300,000, as measured by ASTM D-5296.